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MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Page 1, (which is the annex of the International Preliminary Examination Report), lines 1-3, delete "METHOD OF COPYING WHICH AVOIDS THE BIT-BY-BIT DUPLICATION OF DIGITAL DATA AND READING DEVICE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE METHOD" and insert -- COPY METHOD AVOIDING BIT-TO-BIT DUPLICATION OF DIGITAL DATA AND READING DEVICE FOR IMPLEMENTING SAME --

Page 1, (which is the annex of the International Preliminary Examination Report), after the title, insert the following paragraph:

-- This application claims the benefit of French application serial no. 98/13074 filed October 19, 1998, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference, and which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 365 of International Application PCT/FR99/02425, filed October 11, 1999, which was published in accordance with PCT Article 21(2) on April 27, 2000 in French.--

Page 2, after line 32, insert the following paragraph:

-- Preferably, the encryption key is moreover dependent upon a secret parameter which is contained in any reading device adapted for reading the digital data arising from said data source. --

Page 3, amend the paragraph beginning on line 17 as follows:

"The present invention also relates to a reading device [comprising a formatting circuit] allowing the implementation of the said methods of copying described hereinabove. According to this aspect of the invention, the device comprises a formatting circuit adapted for receiving the serial number of the medium onto which the digital data are to be copied and providing, as output, formatted data which are dependent on said serial number and are intended to be copied onto said medium.

The invention also relates, according to another aspect, to a recording medium for digital data comprising a serial number which is unique or exhibits a low probability of being common with that of another medium, characterized in that it furthermore comprises recorded digital data, said digital data being formatted as a function of said serial number and of a secret parameter."

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MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

1.(AMENDED) A method of copying which avoids the bit-by-bit duplication of digital data arising from a source of digital data [(1)] on a medium [(4), characterized in that] , wherein said method comprises a step of formatting the digital data arising from said source of digital data as a function of a serial number [(NS)] contained in said medium [(4)] and a step of writing said formatted data [(FD)] onto said medium.

2.(AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the serial number [(NS)] is recorded in an unfalsifiable manner on the medium [(4)] during its manufacture.

3.(AMENDED) The method as claimed in [one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the serial number [(NS)] is a unique number for each medium or exhibits a low probability of being common to two media.

4.(AMENDED) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the step of formatting of the digital data to be duplicated is carried out using a secret-key encryption algorithm such as DES or a public-key algorithm such as RSA.

5.(AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the encryption key is dependent on the serial number [(NS)].

6.(AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the encryption key is furthermore dependent on a secret parameter [(PS)] contained in any reading device [(2)] adapted for reading the digital data arising from said source.

7.(AMENDED) A method of copying which avoids the bit-by-bit duplication of digital data read by a reading device [(2)] and copied onto a medium [(4), characterized in that] , wherein the medium comprises a serial number [(NS)] and in that the method of copying comprises the following steps:

- sending of the serial number [(NS)] recorded on the medium [(4)] to the reading device [(2)],
- formatting of the digital data read with the aid of the serial number, and
- recording on said medium [(4)] of the formatted digital data.
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8.(AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein the formatting step is carried out in the reading device [(2)].

9.(AMENDED) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 7 or 8, characterized in that] claim 7, wherein the reading device [(2)] comprises means making it possible to read the medium containing the formatted digital data.

10.(AMENDED) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that] claim 7, wherein before performing the duplication of the digital data, it comprises a step of checking authorization to copy.

11.(AMENDED) A reading device [(2)] allowing the implementation of a method of copying according to [one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein it comprises a formatting circuit [(3)] adapted for receiving the serial number [(NS)] of the medium onto which the digital data are to be copied and providing as output, formatted data [(FD)] which are dependent on said serial number [(NS)] and are intended to be copied onto said medium.

12.(NEWLY ADDED) A recording medium for digital data comprising a serial number which is unique or exhibits a low probability of being common with that of another medium, wherein it furthermore comprises recorded digital data, said digital data being formatted as a function of said serial number and of a secret parameter.